



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/351,420	07/09/1999	BRIAN VON HERZEN PH.D		9695

7590

04/07/2004

LOUIS J HOFFMAN PC
SUITE 300
14614 NORTH KIERLAND BOULEVARD
SCOTTSDALE, AZ 85254

EXAMINER

NGUYEN, KIMNHUNG T

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2674

DATE MAILED: 04/07/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/351,420

Applicant(s)

VON HERZEN PH.D ET AL.

Examiner

Kimnhung Nguyen

Art Unit

2674

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Interview held on 6-9-03.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-51 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 26-29 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-25 and 30-51 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

This Application has been examined. The claims 1-51 are pending. The examination results are as following.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1, 5-11, 16-21, 25, 30 and 34-35 and 49 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Davila (US patent 4,602,191).

Regarding claims 1, 16, 25, 30, 35 and 49, Davila discloses in figures 1-3, an illuminated wearable article (a jacket) comprising a regular two-dimensional array of pixel display elements (see matrix LED see abstract, see column 2, lines 24-25), and having an inherent front light-emitting side and an opposing back side; a graphics controller (44, figure 5) having an inherent physical coupled to and electrically connected to the array (see figure 5); a power source (50, figure 5); and an inherent fastener physical coupled to the back side of the array (because printed circuit board having loop type fastener material, see abstract); and the programming connector physically coupled to the array (see program 46 and power total circuits, see column 2, lines 48-55) and to the graphics controller (44); and wherein the power source and graphics controller (44) are integrally housed with each other inside the case (see program 46 and power total circuits, see column 2, lines 48-55).

Regarding claims 5-11, 21 and 34, Davila further teaches that a common substrate is mounted (see printed circuit board 28); and wherein the substrate is a printed circuit board (28, see column 2, lines 15-21); wherein the graphics controller is a control circuit (44 see figure 5).

Furthermore, Davila also discloses that illuminated wearable comprising graphics controller and couplings that conduct current between the power source and any resistor components (see figure 5).

Regarding claims 17-20, Davila discloses that the programming connector comprises a light responsive transducer, and the pixel display elements are light-emitting diodes (see column 2, lines 26-36).

3. Claims 22, 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Janney (US patent 6,201,525).

Janney et al. disclose an illuminated wearable article (see figure 5, column 2, lines 31-34) comprising a means for displaying a message (see column 2, lines 43-65); means for driving (33, figure 3) the display means to repeatedly scroll (35) the user selected message across the display means (see column 2, lines 57-66); means for power the display means (51), the selection means (buttons 20, 22, 24, 26, 28), and the driving means (33); and means for attaching the display means (10, see figure 5, column 4, lines 40-44), and the driving means (33, figure 3), and the power means (12) as unit to clothing (12) (see figure 5, column 4, lines 39-46).

Janney et al. disclose an illuminated wearable article (see figure 5, column 2, lines 31-34) comprising a means for displaying a message (see column 2, lines 43-65); means for driving (33,

Art Unit: 2674

figure 3) the display means to repeatedly scroll (35) the user selected message across the display means (see column 2, lines 57-66); means for power the display means (51), the selection means (buttons 20, 22, 24, 26, 28), and the driving means (33); and means for attaching the display means (10, see figure 5, column 4, lines 40-44), and the driving means (33, figure 3), and the power means (12) as unit to clothing (12) (see figure 5, column 4, lines 39-46); and means (memory 41) for storing for selection an alphanumeric character set (alphabet), means for selecting the message as a sequence of patterns (see column 2, lines 57-66); and members of an alphanumeric character set (alphabet).

4. Claims 2-4, 12-15, 23, 31-33, 36-48 and 50-51 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Davila (US patent 4,602,191) in view of Janney (US patent 6,201,525) and in view of Ryan, Jr. et al. (US patent 6,028,597).

Davila discloses an illuminated wearable article comprising a regular two-dimensional array of pixel display elements as discussed above, and the article comprising third and fourth with the two dimensional arrays (see figure 3). However, Davila does not disclose that the arrays has a width between 1 and 5, or 1.1 and 2.0, and approximately 1.5 times the character pitch; and the control circuit is programmed to select members of an alphanumeric character set (alphabet); and the brightness of each pixel is controlled by pulse-width modulation; and the article having a volume of less than 20 mililiters and the case is shaped like a rectangular prism, and wherein the first and second arrays are controlled by a common set of exactly two buttons supported by the case and electrically coupled to the graphics controller.

Regarding the claims 2-4, 23, 31-33 and 50-51, it would have been obvious for Davila's system to have the arrays has a width between 1 and 5, or 1.1 and 2.0, and approximately 1.5 times the character pitch, and the article having a volume of less than 20 milliliters and the case is shaped like a rectangular prism as claimed since such a modification would have involved a mere change in the range or shape of the system. A change in range or shape is generally recognized as being within the level of ordinary skill in the art.

See In re Rose, 105 USPQ 237 (CCPA 1995) and

In re Reven, 156 USPQ 679 (CCPA 1968).

5. Regarding claims 12-15 and 36-48, Janney discloses the control circuit is programmed to select of members of an alphanumeric (letters of alphabet) (see column 3, lines 29-32), and an inherent wherein the control circuit has a non-volatile store for the user-selected sequence of the pattern, Janney also discloses in figure 1 the two buttons (20, 22, 24, 26, 28) through the table and electrically coupled to the graphics controller (see column 3, lines 44-50).

Ryan discloses a brightness of each pixel display element and pulwidth modulated (see abstract), and two buttons supported by the case and electrically coupled to the graphics controller.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to utilize the teaching of Janney and Ryan as discussed above in the device of Davila's system for producing the claimed invention because this would allow the user to scroll backward through the table and enter a chosen character at a display portion, and animating an image of the character responsive to the characteristics (see abstract).

Allowable Subject Matter

6. Claims 26-29 are allowed.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

The present invention comprises a method of programming a message being scrolled on the display comprising a sequence of pattern or characters into a wearable ornamental comprising a activating by the buttons. The closest prior art, Janney (6,201,525) shows a similar system which also discloses a moving alphanumeric messages are programmed by manipulation of five buttons related to the wearable ornamental display. However, Janney fails to teach the steps of a activating a third button combination comprised of clicking at least one of the buttons, while in the edit mode to toggle from the edit mode to the run mode, thereby causing the replacement of the first character by the first replacement character in the scrolled message being display as claim 26.

Response to arguments

7. Applicant's argument filed on 11-8-02 has been fully considered but they are not persuasive in view of new ground rejection.

Applicant's argument that Guritz does not disclose "a regular two-dimensional array of the pixel display elements". However, examiner respectfully disagrees with the argument because Davila discloses in figures 1-3, an illuminated wearable article (a jacket) comprising a regular two-dimensional array of pixel display elements (see matrix LED, see abstract, see column 2, lines 24-25).

Correspondence

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kimnhung Nguyen whose telephone number (703) 308-0425.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, **RICHARD A HJERPE** can be reached on (703) 305-4709.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, D. C. 20231


Or faxed to:

(703) 872-9314 (for Technology Center 2600 only).

Hand-delivery response should be brought to: Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Technology Center 2600 Customer Service Office whose telephone number is (703) 306-0377.

Kimnhung Nguyen
March 29, 2004


RICHARD HJERPE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600